

The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC), comprised of 12 Partners and led by EMHS, is working to improve the health of chronically ill people in the Bangor region through sustainable care coordination that is facilitated by health information technology (HIT). More than a dozen additional statewide collaborators are working to ensure that the improved outcomes brought about through BBC learning and health information exchange, are extended throughout the State of Maine. The BBC is supported through a three year, \$12.75 million grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT.

207.973.7050
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Representatives from the Bangor Beacon Community attended an ONC regional meeting in Philadelphia and presented best practices in regards to social media, data collection, and consumer engagement.

On July 18, a press conference was held at St. Joseph's Hospital to announce its connection to HealthInfoNet through the Bangor Beacon Community grant. All television media outlets attended and we received good coverage of the event, continuing to educate our community about the importance of having a statewide health information exchange.

The Statewide Advisory Committee for the Bangor Beacon Community met July 20 and provided updates to stakeholders regarding the accomplishments made this past year and planning for the coming year.

The Bangor Beacon Community and Aligning Forces for Quality are co-sponsoring *Care About Your Care* on September 15, 2011. The event hopes to increase awareness about what consumers can do to identify and receive better care. It will include a live broadcast with Dr. Mehmet Oz, health fair, and lunch.

Patient Centered Strategy

Practice Improvement – The Bangor Beacon Community now has data for cardiovascular disease and is showing improvements at the practice level for many of the Beacon goals, including blood pressure recorded, smoking status documented, and BMI.

Care Management – During July two training sessions were held for care managers: diabetes patient self-management support and managing medications for high risk patients. The workgroup also has been identifying, prioritizing, and overcoming barriers; focusing on medication reconciliation across the continuum of care.

Home Care – All sites completed their initiation and will begin enrolling patients. Eligible patients will receive in home monitors upon discharge from the hospital that measure blood pressure, weight, and blood sugar levels. The goal is to show the impact telemonitors have on reducing readmissions to the hospital.

Mental Health – The text messaging project was delayed due to an issue with the software and limited functionality. A new vendor was identified and software purchased. A dozen patients have been identified as having cell phones and interest in participating in the program.

A Mental Health forum is being planned for the fall. This forum will focus on the communication between primary care practices and mental health clinicians. The forum will include primary care providers, nurses, care managers, and mental health clinicians from the Bangor area, along with some members of the Statewide Advisory Committee. The group also will work to educate participants on HIPAA & state privacy laws.

Challenges/Opportunities

Enrollment – Bangor Beacon Care Managers have enrolled nearly 990 patients with a goal of 1,500. Research coordinators have enrolled more than 110 control group patients to date toward a goal of 750. We are actively recruiting patients for the study. Please spread the word and have prospective patients call 973-9070 for eligibility.

Feedback

We value your input, please let us know if we can improve these updates and as always you can find us online at: www.bangorbeaconcommunity.org.

**Bangor Beacon
Community
Partners**

EMHS

The Acadia Hospital
Community Health
and CounselingEastern Maine
Community CollegeEastern Maine
HomeCareEastern Maine
Medical Center

HealthInfoNet

Maine Primary
Care AssociationPenobscot
Community
Health Care

Ross Manor

St. Joseph
Healthcare

Stillwater Healthcare